

Remarks

Claims 1-12, 14-34, and 36-44 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-12 and 14-44 are rejected. Claims 13 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 1, 17, 21, 30, 32, 34, 36 and 40 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The rejection of Claims 1-12 and 14-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cansler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,725,257) is respectfully traversed.

Cansler et al. describe a process for configuring a product using a server and a client connected by a computer network, where the product has multiple possible configurations, and where each configuration is defined by a set of standard attributes and a set of optional attributes (column 2, lines 41-46). The process includes receiving from the client a request for a base configuration comprising the set of standard attributes, transmitting to the client the standard attribute set for the base configuration, and transmitting to the client a plurality of Web pages containing an option data set including all possible optional attributes and a set of commands, the set of commands being executed on the client and allowing a user to select the set of optional attributes using the client (column 2, lines 46-54). In the process, the user selects a "road test and safety" category and road test and safety characteristics of the base configuration are downloaded and displayed (116, 118) (column 7, lines 27-31). In the process, the user selects a "warranty" category and warranty information is downloaded and displayed (120, 122). In the process, the user selects a "tech" section and technical specifications of the base configuration are downloaded and displayed (124, 126) (column 7, lines 31-33).

Claim 1 recites a method for facilitating selection of a product for an electrical distribution and control system using a network-based system including a server and at least one device connected to the server via a network, the method comprising the steps of "receiving product specification information from a user via the device; comparing the received product specification information with pre-stored product information; determining whether a portion of the received product specification information is compatible with remaining portions of the received product specification information; providing stored information regarding upgrades of the

product on determining that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portions; prompting the user to provide a type of load configured to couple to the product; selecting at least one product which matches the received product specification information; and downloading information related to the selected product.”

Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest a method for facilitating selection of a product for an electrical distribution and control system as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest prompting the user to provide a type of load configured to couple to the product. Rather, Cansler et al. describes receiving from a client a request for a base configuration including a set of standard attributes, allowing a user to select a set of optional attributes using the client, allowing the user to select a "road test and safety" for displaying road test and safety characteristics of the base configuration, allowing the user to select a "warranty" category for displaying warranty information, allowing the user to select a "tech" section for displaying technical specifications of the base configuration. Accordingly, Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest prompting the user to provide a type of load recited in Claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Cansler et al.

Claims 2-16 and 41 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-16 and 41 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-16 and 41 likewise are patentable over Cansler et al.

Claim 17 recites a system for facilitating selection of a component for an electrical distribution and control product, the system comprising “a device; and a server connected to said device and configured to: receive component information data from a user via said device, the received component information data including at least one of a feature of the component and an accessory of the component; determine whether a portion of the received component information data is compatible with remaining portions of the received component information data; provide information regarding upgrades of the component on determining that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portions; prompt the user to provide a type of load configured to couple to the component; and identify stored component information data that matches the received component information data entered by the user.”

Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest a system for facilitating selection of a component for an electrical distribution and control product as recited in Claim 17. Specifically, Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest a server configured to prompt the user to provide a type of load configured to couple to the component. Rather, Cansler et al. describes receiving from a client a request for a base configuration including a set of standard attributes, allowing a user to select a set of optional attributes using the client, allowing the user to select a "road test and safety" for displaying road test and safety characteristics of the base configuration, allowing the user to select a "warranty" category for displaying warranty information, allowing the user to select a "tech" section for displaying technical specifications of the base configuration. Accordingly, Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest a server configured to prompt the user to provide a type of load recited in Claim 17. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 17 is submitted to be patentable over Cansler et al.

Claims 18-29 and 42 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 17. When the recitations of Claims 18-29 and 42 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 17, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 18-29 and 42 likewise are patentable over Cansler et al.

Claim 30 recites a computer programmed to "prompt a user to select a component of an electrical distribution and control product; prompt the user to provide information required to generate a recommendation for the product; prompt the user to provide at least one of an amount of efficiency provided by and an amount of noise generated by an application of the component; determine whether a portion of the user provided information is compatible with remaining portions of the user provided information; instruct to display a message that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portions on determining that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portions; and generate the recommendation using the user provided information."

Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest a computer as recited in Claim 30. Specifically, Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest a computer configured to prompt the user to provide at least one of an amount of efficiency provided by and an amount of noise generated by an application of the component. Rather, Cansler et al. describes receiving from a client a request for a base configuration including a set of

standard attributes, allowing a user to select a set of optional attributes using the client, allowing the user to select a "road test and safety" for displaying road test and safety characteristics of the base configuration, allowing the user to select a "warranty" category for displaying warranty information, allowing the user to select a "tech" section for displaying technical specifications of the base configuration. Accordingly, Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest a computer configured to prompt the user to provide at least one of an amount of efficiency provided by and an amount of noise generated by an application of the component recited in Claim 30. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 30 is submitted to be patentable over Cansler et al.

Claim 35 has been canceled. Claims 31-34 and 43 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 30. When the recitations of Claims 31-34 and 43 considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 30, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 31-34 and 43 likewise are patentable over Cansler et al.

Claim 36 recites apparatus comprising "means for prompting a user to select a component for an electrical distribution and control product; means for prompting the user to provide information regarding the selected component; means for prompting the user to provide at least one of an amount of efficiency provided by and an amount of noise generated by an application of the component; means for determining whether a portion of the information is compatible with remaining portions of the information; means for displaying a message that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portion on determining that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portions; and means for transmitting to the user a recommendation for a particular component."

Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest apparatus as recited in Claim 36. Specifically, Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest means for prompting the user to provide at least one of an amount of efficiency provided by and an amount of noise generated by an application of the component. Rather, Cansler et al. describes receiving from a client a request for a base configuration including a set of standard attributes, allowing a user to select a set of optional attributes using the client, allowing the user to select a "road test and safety" for displaying road test and safety characteristics of the base configuration, allowing the user to select a "warranty"

category for displaying warranty information, allowing the user to select a "tech" section for displaying technical specifications of the base configuration. Accordingly, Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest means for prompting the user to provide at least one of an amount of efficiency provided by an application of the component and an amount of noise generated by the application. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 36 is submitted to be patentable over Cansler et al.

Claims 37-40 and 44 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 36. When the recitations of Claims 37-40 and 44 considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 36, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 37-40 and 44 likewise are patentable over Cansler et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-12 and 14-44 be withdrawn.

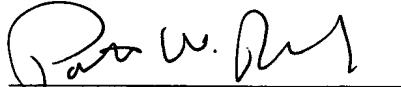
In addition to the arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-12 and 14-44 is not a proper rejection. As is well established, the mere assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Cansler et al. to obtain the claimed recitations of the present invention does not support a *prima facie* obvious rejection. Rather, each allegation of what would have been an obvious matter of design choice must always be supported by citation to some reference work recognized as standard in the pertinent art and the Applicants given the opportunity to challenge the correctness of the assertion or the notoriety or repute of the cited reference. Applicants have not been provided with the citation to any reference supporting the combination made in the rejection. The rejection, therefore, fails to provide the Applicants with a fair opportunity to respond to the rejection, and fails to provide the Applicants with the opportunity to challenge the correctness of the rejection. Of course, such combinations are impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-12 and 14-44 be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the statement on page 3 of the Office Action stating, "In the case of utilizing Cansler's device for another product it is obvious that parameters, options, accessories, etc. would be different and specific to those of the specific product being sold. For example, regarding claims 41-44 providing the

option of "indoor" or "outdoor" use would be obvious when configuring a product such as a component for electrical distribution since such a product can be used both environment and would have to be configured as such. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Cansler's device to configure an electrical device since such and intended use would not alter the scope of the invention and is not considered to hold patentable weight." Applicants respectfully submit that Cansler et al. does not describe or suggest selecting one of an indoor use and an outdoor use of the product as recited in Claim 41, a server configured to enable to select one of an indoor use and an outdoor use of the component as recited in Claim 42, a computer programmed to enable a selection of one of an indoor use and an outdoor use of the component as recited in Claim 43, and an apparatus comprising a means for selecting one of an indoor use and an outdoor use of the component as recited in Claim 44. Rather, Cansler et al. describe or suggest receiving from a client a request for a base configuration including a set of standard attributes, allowing a user to select a set of optional attributes using the client, allowing the user to select a "road test and safety" for displaying road test and safety characteristics of the base configuration, allowing the user to select a "warranty" category for displaying warranty information, allowing the user to select a "tech" section for displaying technical specifications of the base configuration. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of Claims 41-44 are not obvious in view of Cansler et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick W. Rasche
Registration No. 37,916
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070